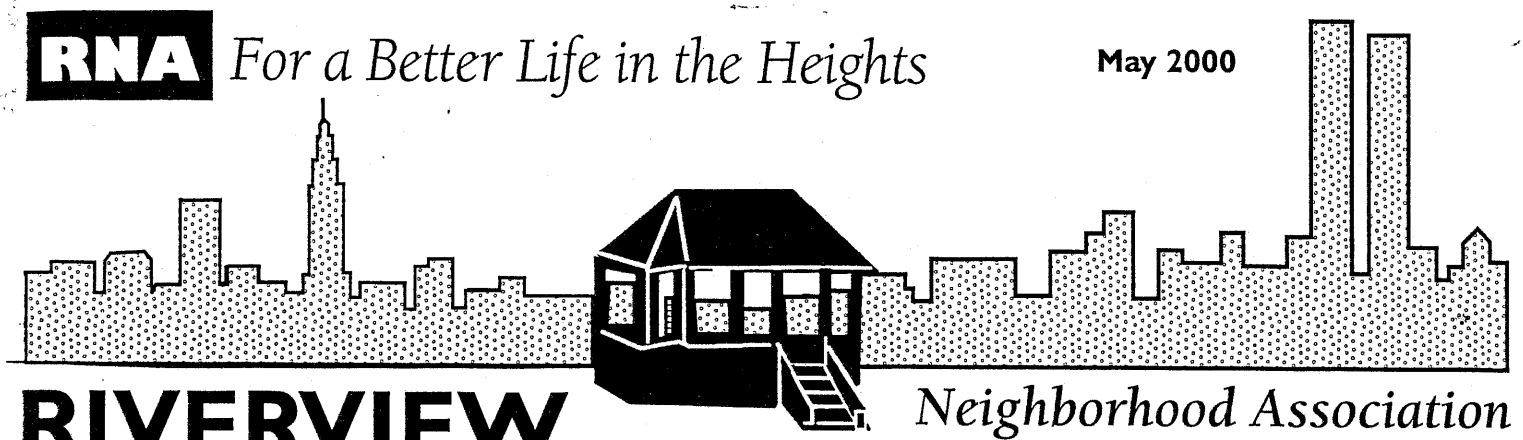
RNA *For a Better Life in the Heights*

May 2000



RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

232 Ogden Avenue • Jersey City, NJ 07307 • 201 798 0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

SPEAK OUT AGAINST **MILLENNIUM TOWERS** MAY 9th

On May 9th, the **Jersey City Planning Board** will meet to hear public comment on **Millennium Towers** (MT), the controversial hi-rise proposal to be build two 43-story towers below the Palisade cliffs. The City adjourned the original meeting date of April 25th in order to revise the proposed amendments to the **Jersey Avenue Redevelopment Plan** (JARP) that are needed to allow the developers to build this project.

The MT project (specifically two 37-story towers atop a 6-story pedestal) will create approximately 550 luxury rental units, 844 parking spaces and 181,000 square feet of commercial retail space. The 3.1 acre site is located off 18th Street between Jersey Avenue and Grove Street on the Jersey City-Hoboken border. It is bordered on the north by the New Jersey Transit trestle embankment into Hoboken and on the south by a parcel of land owned by Lefrak Development.

RNA, participating in a coalition with many other community groups of Jersey City and Hoboken, has lobbied against this ill-conceived project because of its many problems including height, density and traffic congestion. In addition, the developers have publicly admitted that they owe approximately 1.2 million dollars in back taxes on the property and they intend to apply for a 20 year tax abatement for the project. Despite the community's opposition, the City Administration including the **Mayor**, the **Council**

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BE ADVISED: **NEXT RNA MEETING is WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th**

RNA'S NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th instead of the regularly scheduled second Tuesday of the month. The Executive Board decided to change the night of the monthly neighborhood meeting in order that all members will be available to attend the **May 9th Planning Board Meeting** to speak out against the **Millennium Towers Project.**

The agenda for the May 10th meeting will include final planning for the upcoming Park Fair/Flea Market, the monthly Police and NID Updates and reports on the recent Spring clean-up, Harbor View Party and the Planning Board meeting. There will also be a discussion on what types of live events the community would like to have for a summer entertainment program in Riverview-Fisk Park. The meeting will begin at the regular time of 7:15 PM at the Harbor View Health Facility at the corner of Franklin Street and Ogden Avenues.

Because of all the upcoming events, this month's issue of the RNA newsletter is abbreviated. The June issue will contain Meeting Minutes for both April and May and an expanded Bulletin Board and Community Updates.

Spring CLEAN-UP

Volunteers are needed for our Spring Clean-up scheduled for **Saturday, May 6th.** RNA is looking for energetic people - willing to get dirty - to participate in this semi-annual community event which includes both Riverview-Fisk and Janet Moore Parks. The clean-up will begin at **8:00 AM** at the park pavilion located on Ogden Avenue between Griffith and Bowers Streets - rain or shine.

This year, RNA has invited members of the other local community groups: **Heights Hope** and **Palisade Avenue Coalition** to join the activity. There will be a general clean-up of the park walks, raking of the lawns and weeding of the gardens

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DUMPSTER WEEKEND

As part of the Spring Clean-up weekend, The Jersey City Incinerator Authority (JCIA) will place dumpsters at both **Hobson** and **Franklin** Streets between **Ogden** and **Palisade** Avenues from Friday, May 5th to Sunday, May 7th. The dumpsters are free to all residents.

Kindly observe the following rules:

- Place **only** household and large residential items and garden debris in the dumpsters;
- Dumpsters should **not be used** by realtors, contractors or developers;
- **Pack** the dumpster to maximize the limited space of the container;
- **Do not overfill** the dumpster; and
- **Do not leave** garbage outside the dumpster on the street or sidewalk.

PARK FAIR & FLEA MARKET

Time is running out to sign up for space in RNA's annual outdoor fair in Riverview-Fisk Park. The event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 3rd** between the hours of **9 AM** to **4PM.** (The raindate is the following Saturday, June 10th). This year, RNA has invited arts & craft people to participate in addition to our regular vendors. As usual, there will be food and refreshments. RNA will also be selling a special commemorative tee-shirt for the event.

There will be several tables publicizing community projects, including a community survey for the Palisade Avenue Steering

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MILLENNIUM TOWERS

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President and the **Planning Division** continue to strongly support this project.

The coalition's position is that this site and the area surrounding it - which is currently industrial buildings and trucking lots - should be developed with human-scale, low-rise projects that will complement the surrounding communities including the Holland Gardens Housing Project, the residential enclave of St. Lucy's, neighboring Hoboken, historic Hamilton Park district and various communities of the Heights. The City should revise the JARP's overall density and height requirements to stop this project and future ones like it from being proposed. Especially now, with the City revising its Master Zoning Plan, it is the perfect opportunity to draft a rational urban design plan for this whole area below the Palisades.

RNA is opposed to this project for the following reasons:

- it will create a **bad precedent** for both height and density for future development in the surrounding area;
- it will **increase the traffic** congestion and pollution on the local streets in both Jersey City and Hoboken;
- it will **destroy the views** of the Hudson River, New York City skyline and the Palisade cliffs themselves;
- it will create a **"gated" community** that will be isolated from the surrounding communities;
- it will **worsen** the already overwhelmed PATH system with increased ridership; and
- it will force another **tax-abated development** upon the citizens of Jersey City.

RNA urges all its members, neighbors and friends to speak out against this project at the May 9th Meeting. To confirm the date of the May 9th **Planning Board Meeting** call **798-0493**.

Spring CLEAN-UP

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in both parks. The community garden will be open during the day. There will also be publicity for the ceramic tile project proposed for the northern wall of the Park.

This year the City will donate tee-shirts in addition to the tools, gloves and garbage bags for the event. There will be a simple lunch planned for all participants after the clean-up. For more information, call **Kevin Mahony** at 798-4676.

PARK FAIR & FLEA MARKET

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Committee, the creation of a new state-of-the art animal shelter, voter registration, police community relations and JCIA recycling.

We are lining up live musical entertainment and hopefully street performers for the day. But this activity can only be successful if people volunteer to participate. People are needed to organize the publicity and vendor registration. On the day of the fair, people are also needed to clean-up before and after the event and help run the activities and various tables. For more information, please call **Maria Tuzzo** at **659-2245.**

A vendor application with fees and event rules is on the next page.

HARBOR VIEW SPRINGTIME PARTY

On Sunday May 7th, RNA will sponsor a springtime get-together for the Harbor View residents. Refreshments of punch, cookies and snacks will be served. There will also be door prizes given to several lucky residents.

Volunteers are needed to organize this activity, by either baking some dietetic goody, or entertaining with an instrument or singing some songs. We are also looking for people willing to just spend some quality time with these lovely people. Young children are especially welcome.

Anyone interested should call **Valerie Rea** at 653-6916 for more information. *The accompanying photo montage is from last year's Holiday Party for the residents.*

BULLETIN BOARD

Events

Tile Project in Riverview-Fisk Park:

RNA members **Sandy Martiny** and **Beverly Brown Ruggia** have been successfully promoting their special summer project. They have gotten positive feedback from other neighborhood groups and **Councilman Bill Gaughan** has volunteered to financially underwrite the project. The project will create a ceramic tile wall on the Park's northern overlook structure above Holland Street with tiles decorated by local children.

For more information, call Sandy Martiny at 798-4235.

Alerts

Permit Parking Stickers can be purchased at the Jersey City Parking Authority Monday to Friday between 9AM to 5PM. Residents: **$5.00** and Non-residents: **$250.00**. Enforcement is from Monday to Friday between 8AM to 9PM. For information call: **(201) 653-6969**.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1) **Neighborhood Improvement District:** Call **547-4982** and then dial Ext. **8005** for NID Mgr. **Al Maietti**.
2) **PARKING AUTHORITY:** To report parking complaints call **653-6969**, press #9 up until 12 midnight. For emergencies: **Carmine Venezia**, the PA Director can be reached through his beeper 517-3367, till midnight during the weekdays and till 5 pm on Sat.
3) **PSEG LIGHTING:** To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call PSEG at **330-6572**, leave a message with the exact location and number of the street pole.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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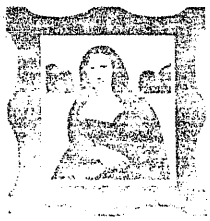
THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL PARK FAIR/FLEA MARKET
VENDOR CONTRACT

SPONSOR: **RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2000 *(RAINDATE: JUNE 10th)*

LOCATION: **RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK**
Ogden & Palisade Avenues, between Griffith & Bowers Streets,
JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS



TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Vendors can set-up after 7:00 AM.)

MEMBER ONLY RATES: $15.00 PER SPACE when paid in advance.
$20.00 PER SPACE when paid on day of event.
Each Space is 10 ft. by 5 ft.

RULES:
1) Vendors must supply their own tables and chairs.
2) Position of spaces on day of event will be on a first come, first serve basis.
3) Food can only be sold by authorized food vendors. No vendor will sell anything obscene or illegal.
(See registration form below.)
4) Vendors must clean-up their spaces at the end of the day. Vendors cannot leave unsold or leftover items in the Park.
5) Vendors will be allowed to unload and load their vehicles at the site, but
AUTO ACCESS TO OGDEN AVENUE WILL CEASE AT 9:00 AM.
6) These rules will be strictly enforced by RNA on the day of the event.
7) Reservations must be postmarked no later then May 29, 2000.

ADVERTISING: The local newspapers, cable-TV and by posters and flyers.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL: MARIA TUZZO (201) 659-2245.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2000
TIME: 9 AM TO 4 PM
PLACE: RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK
(RAINDATE: JUNE 10th)

PLEASE RESERVE: _____SPACES AT $15.00 per SPACE.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____.

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

Telephone No.s (Home)_____(Work)_____

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Cut out this application and send to MARIA TUZZO: 170 Ogden Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07307

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

Don't forget - NEW DATE!
Come to the Next RNA Meeting on
Wednesday, May 10th, 7:15 PM

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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Riverview Neighborhood Association

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Stephen Carr
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Tim Gilliard
Treasurer

Beth D'Errico
Sargent at Arms

COMING EVENTS:

SPRING CLEAN-UP, Saturday, May 6th, 8am until Noon.
Meet at Riverview-Fisk Park at the Pavilion on Ogden Ave. between Griffith and Bowers Streets: Rain or shine!

HARBOR VIEW SPRING PARTY, Sunday, May 7th at 1:30pm, Harbor View Health Care Center, Franklin St. & Ogden Avenue.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, May 9th, 6:00pm
Council Chambers, City Hall, 280 Grove St.
STOP *the* **MILLENNIUM TOWERS PROJECT**

RNA MEETING, Wednesday May 10th, 7:15 PM
Harbor View Health Care Center

PARK FAIR & FLEA MARKET, Saturday, June 6th.
Riverview-Fisk Park